



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Virtual Meeting
January 6, 2022 4:00 PM
MINUTES

January 6, 2022 Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Members Present: Kristopher Monroe, Chairman
Thomas Gensheimer, Vice - Chairman
Lisa Watson, Secretary
Ashley Rainge
Eileen Baker
Sean Mannion

Staff Present: Pamela Everett, Assistant Executive Director
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Monica Gann, Assistant Planner
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[1. Approve the December 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 12.02.21 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

The Historic Site & Monument Commission motioned to APPROVE the December 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of the City of Savannah | 21-006810-COA | Yamacraw Art Park | Renaming](#)

[📎 Staff Recommendation 21-006810-HM.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP 21-006810-HM.pdf](#)

📎 [Site Photographs.pdf](#)

Ms. Leah Michalak presented the applicant's request for approval to rename Yamacraw Art Park located between West Bay Street to the north, Ann Street to the east, West Bryan Street to the south, and Fahm Street to the west. The request to change the name from Yamacraw Art Park to Yamacraw Square, as per the applicant, *“would better describe the function it is intended to serve, a central gathering space for the neighborhood, and would tie this greenspace to other public greenspaces downtown.”*

This is not a person. It commemorates the local history of the area and will strengthen the neighborhood identity. Staff is not aware of any other existing public property with a name duplication. This is not advertising. The name change does not affect the residents, area businesses, community diversity, have a historical significance of pre-existing name or location, appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area, emergency services, or continuity and stability.

The City of Savannah is requesting the change.

Per the applicant, the name change *“would better describe the function it [the park/square] is intended to serve, a central gathering space for the neighborhood, and would tie this greenspace to other public greenspaces downtown.”*

A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property, including all prior names associated therewith; and

An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.

This information was provided with the submittal packet.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Joseph Shearouse, petitioner, apologized that the required endorsements were not received prior to the meeting. He stated the residents provided overwhelming support.

Mr. Gordon Denney, Director of GreenScapes Department, stated a funding source was initiated to restore the park. It has been cleaned, restored panels, and more. He explained the community would like for it to be named as a square, rather than a park, to have connectivity to the historic squares in downtown Savannah. It will show as a square on the historic map; not as one of the 24 original, but as Emmet Park, Morrell, and Tomochichi.

Mr. Shearouse explained this hearing is for a renaming, as the area does have another legal name. Documentation was found to determine the actual name. The previous petition of Ridgewood Park was a naming, as there was no documentation found of another name.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Anthony Maxwell, of the Yamacraw Restoration Project, stated the First Bryan Baptist Church supports the park renaming to square. Particularly so it can receive the same attention as the other squares in Savannah.

Mr. Leggett, Alderman, stated his support for the park renaming.

Mr. LeRay Benton, member of First Bryan Baptist Church, stated the support and appreciation of he and his family of the renaming.

Mr. Jerome Meadows, Yamacraw Square artist, gave a history of his association with the project. He designed the square to mimic the 'living room' aspect found in the other historic squares to highlight the existence of a community there.

Mr. Hasaan Ahmad, community organizer, stated his support for this project.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Board consented to accepted the verbal support of Alderman Leggett.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council with the following conditions because the proposed name change otherwise meets the standards within *Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets*:

- 1. Provide information regarding the history and all (if any) prior names of the property.**
- 2. Provide an endorsement by the mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.**

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to RECOMMEND APPROVAL to the Savannah City Council with the following conditions because the proposed name change otherwise meets the standards within Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets:

1. Provide information regarding the history and all (if any) prior names of the property.

2. Provide an endorsement by the mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Ashley Rainge

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Aye

3. Petition of Kayla Dugger | 21-006515-PA | 1512 Bull Street | Street and Courtyard Mural

📎 [Submittal Packet- drawing and photos.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet- narrative and supporting docs.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet- drawing, photos and narrative.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation-21-006515-PA.pdf](#)

Ms. Leah Michalak presented the applicant's request of approval for the installation of a

mural at 1512 Bull Street, The Matadora Apartments.

The mural is proposed to be an abstract floral motif within the courtyard and Drayton Street entrance at the Matadora, by a local Savannah artist and SCAD graduate Kevin Bongang. Mural will aim to highlight the brand of The Matadora and bring some new color to the surrounding community. The dimensions of all the walls vary from 19ft in height and 10 to 20 feet long.

As per applicant: "We were influenced by the energy of Bull Street to build The Matadora's brand. We wanted it to be bold and we wanted it to encourage people to leave their mark. Our team likes the idea of taking this sentiment outside of our walls. Savannah is made up of creatives and artists – we want to inspire and give local folks an opportunity to literally leave their mark on their city. We have street vinyl's on 31st that are going to work really well with Kevin's mural in the courtyard. The Drayton side currently has no signage or markers –adding some art will be a wonderful way to activate that side."

The theme of the mural is abstract flowers and complies with the Georgia obscenity laws and does not contain or advertise any lewd imagery or messages. It does not advertise any illegal activities under the laws of Georgia or the United States. The mural is to complement the entrances of the Matadora on Bull and Drayton Streets, and is to incorporate the architecture into its design. The mural will not cover or detract from any significant or character-defining architectural features. The mural will be respectful to the greater context of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is largely populated with artistic and eclectic students of nearby universities. The mural is located within a mixed-use area.

As per the applicant: "Allison Hall who is a local artist in the Starland district said that these murals feel action oriented – much like Bull Street. We also got feedback from Juliana Lupacchino who said that the colors are vibrant and have good contrast and believes these will be good for photos. She also stated that she doesn't believe that there is messaging like this in any other mural in the Starland District and stated it'll be a, 'huge win for the area.'" To Staff's knowledge, there are no other murals in the immediate vicinity and the building is not historic.

The mural will be appropriate to the building site and to the context of the surrounding neighborhood. The mural is an original design. As per the applicant: "Statement from the artist: 'The focus is spreading a message of love and asserting your presence as an individual in what one loves to do.'"

The proposed paint is to be a combination of aerosol and exterior wall paint. Permanency specifications were not provided to staff.

The artist of the mural, Kevin Bongang is experienced and has completed numerous projects of similar size and scale. Evidence of his work has been submitted. As per the applicant: "We reached back out to Clinton Edminster who we worked with on The Fence Art Project. Our banners featured work from Dana Richardson, Amiri Farris, Xavier Hutchins, Jon Witzky, Jose Ray, Tyriq Mawell, Nar'Keisha Jones, Brian MacGregor and John Grund. Clinton suggested a couple of folks and after chatting with everyone we landed on Kevin Bongang for our courtyard and Drayton sections. Kevin is a local and SCAD alumnus. We thought his work matched our brand's energy."

The applicant is funding the work and will be responsible for upkeep of the work of art. The estimated cost of the proposed mural \$9000.00.

Notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of

the subject property. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Kayla Dugger, artistic director for the petitioning company, stated they strive to work with local artists. The actual mural will be more colorful than the rendering presented, though not sure of the exact colors. The goal is to harmonize with the brand colors. Ms. Watson recommended contacting the brick manufacturer to determine the appropriate primer so the mural adheres durably.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Leggett, Alderman, stated there was no opposition to this petition. It is believed to be an asset to the neighborhood. Concerns of the mural peeling were expressed.

Mr. Philip Mulano, area resident, expressed concern regarding this trend spreading in the neighborhood; is there a limit to the number of murals. He also expressed concern regarding the proposed design on new brick.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

The Board conversed regarding the necessity of paint colors being presented before the Board/Staff. There was admonition provided to the applicant to inform artist of signature size guidelines.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the installation of the mural at property 1512 Bull Street, with the following condition to be submitted to staff for review and approval within 45 business days:

- 1. A weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating shall be applied. Provide a specification of the proposed product(s).**

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to APPROVE the installation of the mural at property 1512 Bull Street with the following condition to be submitted to staff for review and approval within 45 business days:

1.A weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating shall be applied. Provide a specification of the proposed product(s).

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Ashley Rainge

Second: Eileen Baker

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Aye

🔗 [Submittal Packet- narrative and supporting docs.pdf](#)

🔗 [Submittal Packet-drawing and photos.pdf](#)

🔗 [Staff Recommendation-21-006516-PA.pdf](#)

Ms. Leah Michalak presented the applicant's request of an approval for an installation of a mural at property 1512 Bull Street. The mural is proposed to be located on the lane façade at the southwest corner of the building. The mural is proposed to be typography-based mural by Sophie Tompkins, a local Savannah artist and SCAD graduate.

The theme of the mural is depicting a quote “Grab Life by the Horns,” with red roses and a bull. The mural complies with the Georgia obscenity laws and does not contain or advertise any lewd imagery or messages. The mural does not advertise any illegal activities under the laws of Georgia or the United States.

The mural is proposed to be applied into a recessed portion of the wall on the lane between The Matadora and Henny Penny. The location of the mural will not cover or detract from any significant or character defining features. The mural will be respectful to the greater context of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is largely populated with artistic and eclectic students of nearby universities. The mural is located within a mixed-use area.

As per the applicant: “Allison Hall who is a local artist in the Starland district said that these murals feel action oriented – much like Bull Street. We also got feedback from Juliana Lupacchino who said that the colors are vibrant and have good contrast and believes these will be good for photos. She also stated that she doesn’t believe that there is messaging like this in any other mural in the Starland District and stated it’ll be a ‘huge win for the area.’” To Staff’s knowledge, there are no other murals in the immediate vicinity and the mural will not be placed or painted on historic materials. This is not an historic building.

Staff recommends that a rendering of the building on the façade be provided as to ensure that the mural is appropriately scaled for the building and the surrounding context. Additionally, the rendering of the mural provided is not the same proportions as the recessed brick panel which measure 13.5ft x 11.5 ft. Revise the design to match. The mural is an original design.

As per the applicant: “Statement from the artist: “This mural carries the branding and messaging of The Matadora to the street to engage the public and draw them to the local businesses in the building. Bull Street is the epicenter of beloved local savannah businesses. Murals and artwork attract the public, enhancing engagement with these small businesses which helps both the local community and tourism to thrive. The statement “Grab Life by the Horns” feels fitting for this neighborhood because it’s an encouraging and inspiring message to the many SCAD students in the area that are beginning to pave the way for their future. It also feels fitting for this message to be in an area where small businesses are thriving as a reminder and encouragement to local and aspiring entrepreneurs.”

Behr exterior paint is proposed. Provide specification for weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

The artist of the mural, Sophie Tompkins, is experienced and has completed numerous projects of similar size and scale. Evidence of her work has been submitted. As per the applicant: “We reached back out to Clinton Edminster who we worked with on The Fence Art Project. Our banners featured work from Dana Richardson, Amiri Farris, Xavier Hutchins,

Jon Witzky, Jose Ray, Tyriq Mawell, Nar'Keisha Jones, Brian MacGregor and John Grund. Clinton suggested a couple of folks and after chatting with everyone landed on Julianna Lupacchino who is a local artist in the Starland District. We wanted the alleyway section to be a little more interactive because it's such a high trafficked street – so we knew we wanted the work to be typography based. Julianna recommended her studio-mate, Sophia Tompkins. Sophia is a local and SCAD graduate who runs Dreamhouse Studios, also in the Starland District.”

The applicant is funding the work and will be responsible for upkeep of the mural. The estimated cost of the proposed work is \$3000.00.

No comments were received from the public.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Kayla Duggar, petitioner, stated the intent is for appreciation via foot traffic. The artist was given free reign within confines of the brand colors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments regarding this petition.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the installation of the mural at property 1512 Bull Street, with the following conditions to be submitted to staff for review and approval within 45 business days:

- 1. A weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating shall be applied. Provide a specification of the proposed product(s).**
- 2. The proportions of the mural shall be revised to match the size of the recessed brick panel.**
- 3. A rendering of the mural on the building façade shall be provided.**

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to APPROVE the installation of the mural at property 1512 Bull Street with the following conditions to be submitted to staff for review and approval within 45 business days:

- 1.A weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating shall be applied. Provide a specification of the proposed product(s).
- 2.The proportions of the mural shall be revised to match the size of the recessed brick panel.
- 3.A rendering of the mural on the building façade shall be provided.

The Historic Site and Monument Commission approves the installation of the mural at property 1512 Bull Street with the following conditions to be submitted to staff for review and approval within 45 business days:

- 1.A weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating shall be applied. Provide a specification of the proposed product(s).
- 2.The proportions of the mural shall be revised to match the size of the recessed brick panel.
- 3.A rendering of the mural on the building façade shall be provided.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eileen Baker	
Second: Lisa D. Watson	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Aye

IV. Other Business

[5. Nominating Committee to Announce Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary - Commission to Vote](#)

The Nominating Committee has not yet met. It will be postponed to the next meeting.

Mr. Mannion will set-up a Zoom meeting for the Committee to meet.

[6. Presentation of 2022 MPC Calendar](#)

📎 [Final Calendar - 12.14.2021.pdf](#)

Ms. Michalak presented and highlighted the 2022 MPC Calendar.

[7. Staff Decision: Yamacraw Art Park Repairs 21-006523-HM](#)

📎 [Staff Decision 21-006523-HM Yamacraw Art Park.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

Ms. Michalak informed the Board of the Staff decision made regarding this petition.

V. Adjournment

[8. Next Meeting: February 3, 2022 at 4pm, 112 East State Street](#)

[9. Adjourn](#)

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.